

WYOMING EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Cheyenne, October 23, 1963.

Hon. HENRY M. JACKSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: In transmitting the observations and recommendations on proposed legislation, S. 2035, Riverton project, by the Wyoming Natural Resource Board, I should like to make the following points:

The Wyoming Natural Resource Board is a State agency charged with the development of all of Wyoming's natural resources. This State agency has studied the report of the Wyoming reclamation projects survey team, as well as discussing the problems in the Riverton area with a number of informed people. I shall not attempt to review the board's comprehensive work, nor to submit any specific suggestions.

All of us in Wyoming are well aware of the intense interest and exhaustive study your committee has given this project. I am sure we can all agree on certain facts which provide the framework within which solutions must be found:

1. The economy of Riverton and of Wyoming has too great a stake in this project to permit contemplation of its abandonment. Despite the fact that there are some real problems in the third division, the great record of American agriculture leaves no justification for our giving up.

2. The overall record of achievement is good. Crop yields continue to set new records. A comparison of the number of successful farms in the Midvale district, to which should be added successful operators in the third division, completely overshadows those whose operations have failed because of excessive alkalinity resulting from seepage.

3. The high altitude, limited crop adaptability, and short growing season which characterize not only the Riverton project but other areas in Wyoming as well, are convincing arguments in favor of modifying the 160-acre limitation for water delivery, and are compelling reasons for permitting the Secretary to acquire project lands incapable of supporting a farm family and later disposing of them to other settlers whose lands are contiguous.

4. This project, up to the present time, has not had the benefit of revenues from power production in the Missouri River Basin. There is no reason why farmers on this project should longer be denied the help afforded almost every other project in the Missouri River Basin.

The impossibility of resolving all of the problems of everyone involved with this project is recognized. But it is my belief that S. 2035 offers reasonable, realistic solutions to the major problems. I endorse this legislation.

Yours very truly,

CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, *Governor.*

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON PROPOSED LEGISLATION H.R. 8171
(S. 2035), RIVERTON PROJECT, BY THE WYOMING NATURAL RESOURCE BOARD

In consideration of the pending legislation now before the Senate and House Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittees of the Congress, H.R. 8171 and its companion bill S. 2035, the Wyoming Natural Resource Board, a State agency of the executive branch of the government of the State of Wyoming, has made a review of this legislation along with other available information as related to the Riverton project; and in conclusion makes the following observations and recommendations in support of this legislation.

One must bear in mind that since this matter of the Riverton project has been before the Congress the past few years, the issues involved and the objectives sought are concerned with a number of variables and circumstances. These issues are highly interrelated and interwoven so that their identities have been, more than not, partially obscured and confused and has further led to a considerable amount of misunderstanding.

It must be remembered, above all, that we are concerned with a good many people, families; and their well-being in conjunction with further enhancing the development of our natural resources, the land and the water, which has significantly contributed to the growing economy of our State and the western semiarid States, as well as the Nation, under the principles of reclamation.

This proposed legislation, H.R. 8171 (S. 2035) is the result of a series of events, some of which can be readily attributed to misjudgments, and other events that